

NEWS ARTICLE: 05.14.04

GETTING TO KNOW MICHIGAN.....

For me, May is one of my favorite times as we celebrate "Michigan Week," and this year it will be especially significant as we mark the 50th anniversary of this special week that recognizes what makes our state such a wonderful place in which to live. This year, the theme is "Great Lakes, Great Traditions: This is YOUR Michigan!"

That is the exact tag line used in the inaugural year's Michigan Week celebration, and it is as appropriate today as it was in 1954. It is a call to residents everywhere to take ownership of our state and make the most of our communities. It is a time to celebrate this Great Lakes State as the perfect place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Of course, there are all kinds of things a family can do the week of May 15-21 - take a trip to a historical inn or restaurant, read a book by a Michigan author, or make a meal prepared with Michigan products. Classrooms throughout the state will be utilizing this week for a host of state-related projects; work with your child to create a project about Michigan. Set aside an evening to just talk about our state - to get that discussion started, following are some questions that you might research.

1. How many counties are there in Michigan? Name two besides your own.
2. What is the official Michigan children's book and who is the author and Illustrator?
3. Name three Hollywood stars that came from Michigan.
4. What well-known movie was filmed on Mackinac Island?
5. Name Michigan's official state flower.
6. Which of the U.S. astronauts do Michigan citizens claim as their own?
7. Which of our presidents was from Michigan?
8. Who was Stevens T. Mason?
9. Kalamazoo is known as "The Birthplace of_____."
10. Who is the well-known mystery writer who was also a Catholic priest?

True or False:

1. Iron Mountain boasts the world's highest man-made ski jump.
 2. A policeman in Detroit designed the first traffic light.
 3. Michigan was the first state to develop roadside parks and picnic tables.
 4. The first Michigan state capitol was located in Detroit.
 5. Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized Indian tribes.
-
1. Which of the following state symbols were lobbied for by students?
 - a) The white tailed deer
 - b) The painted turtle
 - c) The mastodon
 - d) All of the above

2. Which of the following is NOT a Michigan County?
 - a) Sanilac
 - b) Gogebic
 - c) Lucas
 - d) Chippewa
3. Which of the following Michiganders served as Governor in Michigan?
 - a) Lewis Cass
 - b) Thomas A. Edison
 - c) Gerald R. Ford
 - d) William Lucas
4. Michigan leads the nation in the production of...
 - a) Apples
 - b) Cherries
 - c) Plums
 - d) All three
5. When did Michigan enter the Union?
 - a) 1776
 - b) 1803
 - c) 1837
 - d) 1985

Can you match the following Michigan locations with their claim to fame?

Monroe, Detroit, Jackson, Traverse City, Petoskey, Lansing, Holland, Battle Creek, Mackinac Island, Sault St. Marie

- a) Home of the Republican Party
- b) The state Capitol
- c) Automobiles are not allowed here
- d) The nation's cherry capitol
- e) Ernest Hemingway spent much time here
- f) Home of the largest Dutch community in the nation
- g) General George Custer lived here
- h) Home of Tony the Tiger
- i) Home of the busiest locks in the western hemisphere
- j) Originally known as Fort Pontchartrain

Hope you have fun working on this little quiz and at the same time, perhaps learn an interesting fact about our wonderful state that you did not know.

Watch for the answers in my next article!